

COUNCIL COMING ATTRACTIONS



January 21, 2019

Remembrance and Reconciliation Commission, FY19 Budget Savings Plan, Fiscal Plan and Expenditures, Spending Affordability Guidelines, Capital Budget and CIP, Residents with Developmental Differences Work Group, Evictions

Council Coming Attractions is a summary of some of the issues before the Council. All Council staff reports and additional information on each item scheduled for Council or Committee review can be viewed at:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/ondemand/index.html> .

The Council meeting schedule may change from time to time. The current Council and Committee agendas can also be viewed at:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/ondemand/index.html> .

COUNCIL

Week of January 21, 2019



Resolution to Establish Remembrance and Reconciliation Commission

On Tuesday, January 22 the Council will introduce a resolution to establish the Remembrance and Reconciliation Commission. Councilmembers Hans Riemer, Will Jawando and Craig Rice are the lead sponsors. Council Vice President Sidney Katz and Councilmembers Andrew Friedson and Gabe Albornoz are cosponsors. This commission would support the goal of bringing the community together to recognize African American history in Montgomery County and work with the Equal Justice Initiative to recognize the victims of lynchings with memorial markers in the County. At least three documented lynchings occurred in the County--two in 1880 and one in 1896. The Commission will be comprised of community leaders, including at least ten public members who would be nominated by the County Executive in consultation with the Office of Human Rights, and confirmed by the Council. The Council resolution can be viewed at:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2019/20190122/20190122_5C.pdf

Fiscal Plan and Expenditure Overview

The Council will receive an overview of the County's Fiscal Plan and expenditures from Council staff. This presentation is intended to pull together key information and components from updates provided to the Council at different points in the year to provide the contextual framework for Council decision-making on the capital and operating budgets. The presentation will provide information related to the factors resulting in the FY19 savings plan proposed by the County Executive. The following are key discussion points in the presentation:

- Montgomery County residents expect high-quality services from County agencies. The mix and intensity of services change as the County's demographics change.
- Over the past 15 years, national and local economic conditions have impacted the Council's ability to fund existing services and meet the demand for changing service needs.
- The County is experiencing significant revenue pressures and has few options to address these pressures within the current tax structure.
- Fiscal, policy, and/or legal commitments use up a substantial portion of budgetary "spending room" each year (many of these fiscal policies also result in long-term cost savings).

The Council staff report can be viewed at:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2019/20190122/20190122_6.pdf

COMMITTEES

FY19 Budget Savings Plan

On Tuesday, January 22 at 2 p.m. the Transportation & Environment (T&E) Committee will review the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Savings Plan proposed by the County Executive for the Department of Transportation (MCDOT), the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Utilities Nondepartmental Account budgets. The Committee will develop its recommendations on whether it agrees or disagrees with each reduction, and it may recommend alternative funding reductions. Representatives of MCDOT and DEP are expected to attend. The Council staff report can be viewed at: https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2019/20190122/20190122_TE1.pdf

FY19 Budget Savings Plan

On Thursday, January 24 at 9:30 a.m. the Government Operations and Fiscal Policy (GO) Committee will review the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Savings Plan. The Council staff report will be available on January 22.

Spending Affordability Guidelines for the FY20 Capital Budget and other general CIP assumptions

The GO Committee also will review the Spending Affordability Guidelines for the FY20 Capital Budget and other general Capital Improvements Program (CIP) assumptions. Representatives from the Office of Management and Budget and the Department of Finance are expected to attend. The Council staff report will be available on January 22.

Meeting the Needs of Residents with Developmental Differences Work Group

At 9:30 a.m. the Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee will review the report of the Meeting the Needs of Residents with Developmental Differences Work Group. This group was created by a resolution sponsored and passed by the Council in December 2017. It brings together the County's major departments and agencies, as well as members of the public and other stakeholders, to review and report on current service gaps for residents with developmental differences, including, but not limited to, child care, education, discrimination, transition to adult services, resource coordination, housing, transportation, employment, health care and recreation. The Council staff report will be available on January 22.



FY19 Budget Savings Plan

At 1 p.m. the Planning, Housing and Economic Development (PHED) Committee will review the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Savings Plan. The Council staff report will be available on January 22.



OLO Report 2018-10, Evictions in Montgomery County

At 2 p.m. the PHED and Public Safety (PS) Committees will meet jointly to review Office of Legislative Oversight Report 2018-10, Evictions in Montgomery County. This OLO report reviews the eviction process in the County and evictions data to help County leaders understand how services might be better aligned to assist low-income households facing eviction and prevent homelessness. Overall, this report finds that the County funds several programs that assist households facing eviction and that the Sheriff's Office's collaborates effectively with those efforts. The report makes the following recommendations:

- Request that the Executive revise the County's plain-language lease summary to more clearly define a tenant's rent obligations and to provide contact information for eviction assistance programs.
- Request that the Executive report to the Council on opportunities to work with the landlords of high-writ, high-eviction multi-family properties to develop strategies to reduce evictions.
- Request that the Executive collect and report data on emergency financial assistance grant recipients including: zip code, gender, race, household income and repeated use of the program.

The full report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OLO/Resources/Files/2018%20Reports/2018_10EvictionsMontgomeryCounty.pdf

The Council staff report will be available on January 22.



MC 22-19: Just Cause Evictions Bill

The PHED and PS Committees also will review MC 22-19: Just Cause Evictions. This bill, sponsored by Maryland Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins (District 20), would require landlords to state a specific reason, or "just cause" for evicting a tenant, and give the tenant 60 days' notice prior to evicting. According to OLO Report 2018-10, Evictions in Montgomery County (see above item), an average of approximately 950 tenants per year were evicted in the County between fiscal years 2010 and 2017, with 836 evicted in FY17; and about 8 percent of writs received by the Sheriff's Office lead to eviction. The report also finds that eviction can lead to job instability, homelessness and mental health problems for evicted tenants. The Council staff report will be available on January 22.